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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/797,267	03/10/2004	David A. Senften	44702-42635	5354
21888	7590	10/18/2005	EXAMINER	
THOMPSON COBURN, LLP ONE US BANK PLAZA SUITE 3500 ST LOUIS, MO 63101			LE, MARK T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	

DATE MAILED: 10/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/797,267	SENFTEN, DAVID A.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark T. Le	3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 September 2005.  
 2a) This action is **FINAL**.                    2b) This action is non-final.  
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-20 is/are pending in the application.  
 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
 5) Claim(s) 10-20 is/are allowed.  
 6) Claim(s) 2-9 is/are rejected.  
 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is responsive to the amendments filed on September 13, 2005. Applicant's amendments and remarks have been carefully considered.
2. Claims 2-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi (US 5,048,704).

Takahashi, Figures 8-10, shows an apparatus for controlling connections between model railroad cars, including draw bar 3 provided at the distal end thereof permanent magnet 4 that has first and second surface areas with opposite polarities.

Regarding the side-by-side orientation of the first and second surface areas, recited in instant claim 2, consider Figure 10 of Takahashi.

Regarding the instant claimed drawbar center axis in claims 7 and 8, Applicant should consider Figure 9 of Takahashi; wherein, a center axis running horizontally through the view of the first and second drawing bars, as shown in Figure 9, should present symmetrical halves and first and second magnetic surface areas on opposite sides of the center axis, as broadly recited in the instant claims.

3. Responses to Applicant's Arguments:

Regarding Applicant's Arguments directed to the instant claimed magnetic surface being positioned transverse to the drawbar length, and the instant claimed first and second surface areas are positioned horizontally side by side on the magnetic surface, Applicant should again consider Figure 8 of Takahashi; wherein, the magnetic surface is the outer surface of cylindrical drum 4, which surface extends in the horizontal direction transversely to the length of drawbar 3; and Applicant should

consider for example, the left draw bar shown in Figure 10 of Takahashi; wherein, the first surface area with the S polarity and the second surface area with the N polarity are positioned next to each other and on both sides of central axis 35; therefore, the first and second surface areas of Takahashi are readable as being positioned horizontally side by side as broadly claimed.

Regarding Applicant's argument that in the structure of Takashi, the first and second surface areas of different polarities of one draw bar do not oppose second and first surface areas of different polarities of the second draw bar, as required by claim 9, Applicant should again consider Figure 10 of Takahashi; wherein, the first surface area of the first draw bar is in an opposing contact position with the second surface area of the second draw bar, and the second surface area of the first draw bar is an opposing non-contact position with the first surface area of the second draw bar; therefore, the first and second surface areas of different polarities of one draw bar do oppose the second and first surface areas of the second draw bar as broadly required by claim 9.

4. Claims 10-20 are allowable.

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-6682. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (2:00-8:00).

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel Morano can be reached on 571-272-6684. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark T. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3617

mle  
10/13/05